

Capitol Connection



Issue 3

February 26, 2002



The legislative session is nearing its halfway mark as we head into First Decking, which falls on Friday, March 1st. All bills pending in their final referral committees must be passed out by this date.

For a list of **House committee acronyms** and **Senate committee acronyms**, and other information, visit the Hawaii State Legislature website.

Don't forget to join us for our town meeting on **Tuesday, February 26, at the Aiea Library, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**, and learn how you can deter crime in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,

David Ige

David Y. Ige
State Senator
17th District

Digital Media Update

SB2270 SD1 (passed with amendments by WAM).

Appropriates funds and allocates state and district resource teacher positions to educate public school students about the history and the lessons of the World War II exclusion, removal, and detention versus inclusion, participation, and empowerment of persons of Japanese ancestry.

SB3021 SD1 (passed with amendments by WAM).

Expands the tax credit for motion picture and film production to include up to 22 per cent of the costs of wages and salaries, capped at \$25,000 per employee; includes commercials in motion picture and film production.

SB3061 SD1 (pending in WAM).

Stimulates the economy with a variety of tax incentives, program appropriations, task forces, studies, and planning.

HB2576 (decision making by FIN on Tues., 2/26, at 10:00 am in Room 308). Clarify the application of certain high technology tax incentives.

HB2803 HD1 (passed with amendments by FIN).

Allows the tax credit for motion pictures, television films, or commercials to include up to 22 per cent of the costs of wages and salaries; provided that the total amount of the credit does not exceed \$25,000; and up to 4 per cent of the total costs, excluding wages and salaries.

HB1800 (FIN hearing scheduled for Thur., 2/28, at 11:15 pm in Room 308).

Adjusts and reprioritizes State funding for fiscal biennium (FB) 2001-2003 based on November 2001 Council on Revenues estimates, by adjusting fiscal year (FY) 2002-2003 operating budget funding priorities; adjusting non-general fund authorizations; and adjusting and authorizing capital improvement projects for FB 2001-2003.

Spotlight on Services



The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) website (www.state.hi.us/lrb) is filled with numerous resources, such as the Hawaii Directory of State, County, and Federal Officials, as well as reports relating to bills passed and resolutions adopted in the Hawaii State Legislature.

The role of the LRB is to assist the Legislature by providing impartial research, consultation, and document drafting services, maintaining a research library, statute revision and publication, operating a computerized legislative information system, and providing resources to enhance public participation in the legislative process.

Bills on Education

On Higher Education:

HB1959 HD1 (passed unamended by FIN). **SB2067 SD1** (passed with amendments by WAM). Repeals the HOPE endowment special fund and transfers the remaining balance to the University of Hawaii tuition and fees special fund to be used for programs to support under-represented students and promote diversity.

HB2164 HD2 (passed with amendments by FIN). Amends provisions relating to the Hawaii educator loan program and Hawaii educator loan program special fund to clarify provisions and support teacher education and retention.

HB2172 (passed with amendments by FIN). Appropriates funds for agricultural research and development and for the development of the agribusiness incubator initiative.

HB2235 HD2 (passed with amendments by FIN). **SB2579 SD1** (pending in WAM). Creates the Pacific Center for Ecosystem Science. Appropriates funds.

HB2558 HD1 (decision making by FIN scheduled for Tuesday, 2/26 at 5:00 pm in Room 308). **SB2816 SD1** (passed with amendments by WAM). Creates an incentive for students to become teachers and to ensure that these graduates teach in our public schools.

SB2843 SD1 (pending in WAM). Allows UH to indemnify a person, corporation, or entity when indemnity is required as a condition for obtaining research grants, benefits, services, interest in or right to use property, and other contractual benefits.

HB2718 HD1 (passed with amendments by FIN). Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the University of Hawaii to improve its physical facilities.

SB2033 (passed with amendments by WAM). Reduces period of forgiving loans from the Hawaii educator loan program from 10 years to 6 years by forgiving 10% for each of the first 5 years and 50 per cent for the 6th year; establishes an appropriation ceiling; and authorizes up to 5% of outstanding loans for administrative costs. Appropriates funds.

SB2351 SD1 (passed with amendments by WAM). Establishes a nursing loan program and appropriates funds to provide loans to nursing candidates.

SB2901 (pending in WAM). CIP for UH Institute of Astronomy for new research facility in Maui.

On Education Reform:

HB2037 HD1 (decision making by FIN scheduled for Tue., 2/26, at 5:00 pm in Room 308). Implements decentralization of education governance and management to the school-community level and other aspects of full education reform.

On Governance

SB3018 (decision making by WAM on Thur., 2/28, at 1:00 pm in Room 211).

Replaces the current board of education with regional boards of education and a statewide board of education composed of its members. Establishes an educational region commission to determine educational regions within the State.

HB2033 HD2 (decision making by FIN Tue., 2/26, at 5:00 pm in Room 308). Proposes amendments to the state constitution to abolish the state board of education; require the governor to appoint a state superintendent of education; require the superintendent to establish statewide educational policy; and require the internal organization of the statewide system of public education to be as provided by law.

SB2102 (decision making by EDU/TMG/JDC/WAM on Thur., 2/28, at 1:15 pm in Room 211).

Proposes amendments to the state constitution to abolish the state board of education; require the governor to appoint a state superintendent of education; establishes 15 school complexes to be headed by chief executive officers appointed by the superintendent with the approval of the governor.

On Accountability:

SB 3005 SD1 (pending in WAM). Holds students, educational professionals, and schools individually and collectively accountable for academic excellence, student safety and well-being, and civic responsibility by requiring establishment of an educational accountability system based on assessment, technical assistance, rewards, sanctions, and reporting.

On Charter Schools:

SB 2662 SD1 (passed with amendments by WAM). **HB 2014 HD1** (passed unamended by FIN).

Allows a nonprofit organization to manage and operate a new century conversion charter school as a division of the nonprofit organization, in which the charter school's local school board would consist of the board of directors of the nonprofit organization.

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